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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY RumaniaSUBJECT Conditions in Orasul Stalin (Brasov): Location of Public Offices/Landing Communist Officials/Deportations, Transport Jams/Limited Health Facilities/Main IndustriesDATE DISR. 20 May 1952NO. OF PAGES 4

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2. "Although the name of the town of Brasov was changed to Orasul Stalin, the new name is used only officially. The population stubbornly continues to use the name Brasov.
3. "Many street names have also been changed. For example:
 - (a) The main street, Regale Carol, has been renamed Boulevardul Lenin. This street runs to the newly erected Stalin monument in the outskirts of the town. Near the bus stop stands an unfinished building, referred to locally as a 'typical example of socialist construction'. It is a large hall for demonstrations and propaganda meetings. It was about to be completed when the main supporting walls began to sink into the ground. It was found that the planners had miscalculated the solidity of the ground. The construction was abandoned.
 - (b) The Strada Vamii, which crosses the Boulevardul Lenin near the outskirts of Brasov, is now called Strada Karl Marx. The Boulevardul Lenin, after passing the Main Post Office, continues under the name of Boulevardul Stalin. Further up is the sector formerly called Regale Mihail I. It is now called Strada 7. Noiembrie.
4. Public Buildings
"Orasul Stalin is dominated by the three-story building of the Cetatui Prison, which stands on a hill. The building is visible to all passengers arriving at the Orasul Stalin railway station. It is guarded by armed members of the Securitate. The public is forbidden to pass the sidewalk in front of the entrance.
5. "The most important public offices in the town are located at the following addresses:
 - (a) The Regional Headquarters of the CP occupy the former premises of the National Union of Germans, in the Strada Karl Marx, behind the Post Office.
 - (b) The UTM (Communist Youth League) headquarters are in the former Capitol movie theatre, on the Boulevardul Stalin.

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50X1-HUM

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- 2 -

- (c) The offices of the APLUS (Rumanian-Soviet Friendship Society) and of the House of Trade Unions, are located in the former Casa de Economie Bank, in the Strada 7. Roemarie.
- (d) The Securitate headquarters occupy the former Villa Popovici near the municipal baths on the Strada Frumului. The Villa was remodeled for this purpose and has now underground prison cells.
- (e) The Militia Command is located in the former building of the Cultura Italiana.

Leading Communist Officials

6. "Orasul Stalin, having been declared a 'workers' city', is under specially tight Communist control. There have been extensive arrests and deportations of former prominent citizens to eliminate 'reactionary elements'. The two omnipotent officials on whom the liberty and life of every inhabitant depend are:

Col (fnu) Galusek, Commander of the Brasov Securitatea. He lives at 266 Dealul Spirii Strada.
 Maj (fnu) Condurache, Commander of the Brasov Militia. His real name is unknown [redacted]. He assumed this Rumanian name.

Both men are believed to be non-Rumanian nationals, possibly Soviets. Nothing is known about their background and private life.

Deportations and Arrests

7. "The deportations from Orasul Stalin affected wide segments of the population. The most extensive deportation wave, in November 1951, affected a number of respected, influential persons, including:

D Orchidan, the former mayor of the city
 Dr (fnu) Salomon, a well-known lawyer, and his family
 the Burstin brothers
 Dr (fnu) Tiliu, the well-known chemist
 Lt. Col (fnu) Puscariu.

8. "Another wave of deportations of social 'undesirables' began in April 1952. By the end of May 1952 it had affected some 20,000 persons. Most of these deportees were sent to the Baragan desert; a few were sent to Micocurca Ciucului.

9. "Local people who have been imprisoned or sent to labor camps include:

Gen (fnu) Iacobici, former Chief of Staff
 Gen (fnu) Zviedeneck
 Rev (fnu) Both, a priest
 (fnu) Kamner, a chemist
 (fnu) Voica, former mayor
 Dr (fnu) Radu, local leader of the Liberal Party
 A Fabricius)
 G Eitel)
 Otto Schmidt)
 Fritz Copony) local factory owners
 (fnu) Clontea)
 Camil Ionescu)
 (fnu) Trambiceanu)

Richard Schutzler, who formerly owned the Scherg Textile Factory, was imprisoned after the nationalization of his factory for having allegedly hidden some gold coins. He underwent terrible tortures during the investigation. Local people believe that he died in prison at the beginning of 1951.

Food Shortages

10. "The food situation in Orasul Stalin is very difficult. Thousands of townspeople head to the countryside each weekend to buy milk, butter and eggs from the farmers.

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50X1-HUM

- 3 -

Transport Jams

11. "Another problem is transport. The town has six bus lines, but only 15 buses are in operation. These 15 buses are supposed to serve a population of 170,000. Five of the buses are museum pieces, out of circulation most of the time. Ten are Skoda makes imported from Czechoslovakia in 1952. The official maximum capacity of these buses is 40 passengers, but during the rush-hours 100 persons are usually crammed in. The buses usually fill up at the bus terminal, and the people at all the other stops wait in vain.
12. "The only competition for the municipal bus lines are the few remaining cabs and horse-drawn carriages. They usually wait in front of the railway station and do a miserable business during the day. In the evening the drivers are glad to pick up persons waiting in vain at bus stops and drive them home at a charge of one leu per person. A bus ticket costs 0.50 leu. The authorities are not too pleased with this competition but are unable to do anything about it.

Entertainment

13. "Orasul Stalin now has a permanent theatre. It is located in the building of the former Reduta movie theater. It is managed by the prominent pre-war actor Misu Fotino. The performances are not on too high a level. The company consists of young men and women who became actors only after the end of World War II.
14. "At the movies the situation is much the same as in other cities behind the Iron Curtain. Whenever Soviet propaganda films are shown, the cinemas are half-full - even this number achieved only by compulsory ticket sales in the trade unions and other organizations. When any other film is on the program, the cinemas are filled to capacity. This is partially true even when films from other People's Democracies are shown. The propaganda trend is less obvious and the shots are more artistic than in Soviet films.
15. "Amidst the atmosphere of constant fear, misery and boredom, an alarming increase of alcoholism can be observed. The working class in particular spends every extra penny on drinks. Though beer was the favorite beverage in Brasov before World War II, the consumption of hard liquor is now widespread.

Religion

16. "In spite of the strong anti-religious propaganda and the arrest of many priests, the churches in Brasov are packed full on Sundays and holidays. Since 1952 the traditional Easter celebration and parades, which formerly attracted large crowds from the countryside, have been forbidden.

Health Facilities

17. "The hospitals open to the general public are the:
 - State Hospital No 1 - the largest hospital in Orasul Stalin, located on the Strada Brancoveanu.
 - State Hospital No 2 - located on the upper floors of the Social Insurance Service building, opposite the Saguna Lyceum
 - } Clinic for Venereal Diseases
 - } Clinic of Ophthalmology.
18. "The shortages of equipment, medicines and supplies is so acute that many patients have to provide their own drugs, often even their own bandages. The meals in the hospitals are very poor. The staffs are overworked and exhausted. The State pharmacies have nothing to offer except the most common medicines. All the better and newly developed drugs can be bought only on the black market.
19. "Two hospitals in Orasul Stalin are strictly 'off limits' to the public:
 - The Marzescu Hospital in Guza Voda Strada - A small sanatorium for TB patients, reserved for the communist aristocracy.
 - The Military Hospital behind the town market place - Reserved for the Army. No visitors are allowed in this hospital since victims of police tortures are also brought for treatment.

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- 4 -

Local Industries

20. "Orasul Stalin is an industrial town. Its factories took heavy punishment from the Allied air forces during World War II. Since the war the Communist regime has not only restored but further developed local industry.
21. "The Steagul Rosu (former Astra Vagoane) plant, which was half demolished during World War II, is now completely repaired and equipped with new machinery. The main production is railway wagons, most of which are exported to the USSR under the reparations agreement. It is generally known that the plant though formally under Rumanian administration is directed from the background by a number of Soviet specialists who are probably military experts. They are seldom seen, however, on the premises. The total number of workers is around 9,000. Most of them live in a newly built workers' settlement near the factory.
22. "The Sovromtractor (former I A R) plant, which formerly produced aircraft parts, is now producing tractors. According to the workers, the bulk of the output of this plant goes to the USSR. Only the leftovers go to Rumanian collective farms. The number of workers is about 10,000. This factory was heavily damaged during World War II, but it has been completely rebuilt.
23. "The Metan factory produces various machines [not specified] and spare parts. The reconstruction of this plant is now being completed.
24. "The Tanelia plant produces cement and prefabricated cement blocks and columns for construction work.
25. "The Breiner Bella (former D Voina) factory produced ammunition during World War II. Since 1945 it has produced agricultural machinery. The plant is now being further enlarged. The number of workers is 1,200-1,500.
26. "The Strungul (former Schiell) factory was heavily damaged during World War II, but has been completely rebuilt. It produces machinery but is soon [date not specified] to be converted for war production. It employs about 1,000 workers.
27. "At the Muntenia (former Vacuum Oil) refinery, opposite the railway station, a new cement oil tank has been built since the end of World War II. The refinery employs about 900 workers.
28. "The Partizanu Rosu (former Scherg) textile factory employs 2,000 workers in three daily shifts. Its production consists almost entirely of material for Army uniforms. Before World War II its textile products were among the best, but the quality has now deteriorated considerably on account of lack of dyes and other materials.
29. "The wages of factory workers depend not only on the fulfillment of high working-norms and production plans, but also on the category of industry to which the factory belongs. In Brasov the Steagul Rosu and Sovromtractor belong to the First (highest) Category."

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